

THE ROSSVILLE
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP
NEWSLETTER
January 1999

*The Rossville Community Advisory Group exists to insure that the clean up of the
Ross Metals Superfund Site protects human health and the environment.*

Public comment period ends; EPA responses to delay ROD

Now that the extended public comment period has ended (Jan. 19), regarding the proposed remedy for cleaning up the Ross Metals Superfund Site, the painstaking task of answering those comments begins. EPA received technical comments from the potentially responsible parties (PRPs).

Of the many PRP comments submitted, one of the more important issues raised is the cost-effectiveness of EPA choosing a remedy that is \$2.5 million dollars more than other remedies proposed. The PRPs submitted their own cleanup remedy, which is similar to one considered by EPA during the feasibility study, that includes treatment of some waste and landfilling of all the waste on Site. The PRPs say they believe the on-Site landfill could be built in the 100-year floodplain because it could be built with proper engineering controls to withstand a flood event.

"Each comment must be responded to and because the PRP's comments are so technical, writing the Responsiveness Summary becomes a lengthy process," said Beth Brown, project manager.

The Responsiveness Summary is a summary of oral and written public comments

received by EPA during the comment period on the Proposed Plan remedy and EPA's responses to those comments. The responsiveness summary is a key part of the Record of Decision (ROD), highlighting community concerns for EPA decision-makers.

PRPs form workgroup

The PRPs formed a workgroup for the purpose of commenting on the Proposed Plan. Several workgroup members traveled to Atlanta to meet with EPA representatives in January to discuss their recommended course of action. EPA will respond to their comments in the Responsiveness Summary. Workgroup members indicated their willingness to implement a cleanup at the Ross Metals Site even if EPA selects Options S-5B and W-3B, as proposed in the November Fact Sheet. However, the PRP workgroup wants EPA to include their proposal as a "backup plan" in the ROD that would allow consideration of their remedy after the ROD is issued. If EPA does not include this "backup plan" in the ROD, the PRP's willingness to perform the cleanup may be affected.

Agencies to meet with PRPs

Representatives from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Solid Waste and Superfund divisions, from the Army Corps of Engineers and from EPA's

Superfund and Wetlands divisions will meet with the PRP workgroup Wednesday, Feb. 3. The PRPs will hear from the various agency experts as they provide additional information regarding the building of landfills in a flood plain. Information on this topic is already available in the Proposed Plan report located in the information repository at City Hall. If anything substantial occurs during the meeting, an update will be provided to citizens via this newsletter.

What to expect next

Should EPA decide to change its preferred remedy, based on public comment, another fact sheet will be issued, another public meeting will be held and another 30-day comment period will be conducted. If this all

comes about, you'll be notified via this newsletter, newspaper ads and media releases. However, if public comment is in favor of EPA's preferred remedy, things will go along as scheduled.. The Responsiveness Summary would likely be issued during the first week of March and available in the Information Repository at the Rossville City Hall..

If you have any questions regarding the Ross Metals Superfund Site and/or ongoing community involvement activities, please contact Beth Brown, project manager, at 1 (800) 435-9233, ext. 28814, or Cindy Gibson, community involvement coordinator, at ext. 28808.



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